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ORIGIN EUR-25

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APPROVED BY EUR - JOHN A. ARMITAGE

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R 162224Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163097

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: UR, ETRN, OGEN

SUBJECT: VORONTSOV-ARMITAGE MEETING, AUGUST 16

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ARMITAGE CALLED IN SOVIET MINISTER COUNSELOR VORONTSOV ON MORNING OF AUGUST 16 TO INFORM HIM THAT IN THE AFTERNOON CAB WOULD ISSUE PRESS RELEASE OF COMPLAINT AGAINST AEROFLOT IN REGARD TO IRREGULAR TICKETING PRACTICES. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR ADVANCE NOTICE, VORONTSOV OBSERVED THAT APPARENTLY IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO QUASH COMPLAINT AS SOVIETS HAD EARLIER ASKED AT TIME AEROFLOT MADE FIRM COMMITMENT TO MEND WAYS. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT ACTION ON COMPLAINT HAD BEEN DELAYED IN DEFERENCE TO BREZHNEV VISIT, BUT THAT QUASHING NOT POSSIBLE SINCE OTHER AIRLINES AFFECTED AND US REGULATIONS HAD TO BE ADMINISTERED FAIRLY ACROSS-THE-BOARD. ARMITAGE ADDED THAT IF REQUESTED TO COMMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD CHARACTERIZE CAB ACTION AS STRICTLY ROUTINE NON-DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS WITHOUT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. VORONTSOV EXPRESSED REGRET AT ACTION BUT
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REMARKED HE UNDERSTOOD US VIEW OF ITS NECESSITY.

2. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS. CHANGING SUBJECT, ARMITAGE RAISED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES AS MATTER OF OFFICIAL CONCERN. HE SAID ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF MAINTAINING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FORCED MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION, BUT

THIS WAS SUBSIDIARY REASON FOR RAISING IT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, RESTRICTIONS HAMPERED EFFORTS TO REALIZE MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED GOALS AND WERE NOT IN KEEPING WITH FAVORABLE COURSE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HAVING AGREED ON SOMETHING AS SECURITY-RELATED AS MONITORING SALT, SECURITY RATIONALE OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN AT LEAST SERIOUSLY ERODED. ARMITAGE SAID WE WERE ASKING SOVIETS TO REVIEW POSSIBILITY OF OUR REEXAMINING WHOLE QUESTION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WITH VIEW TO THEIR REDUCTION. AFTER GRATUITOUS INJECTION OF NECESSITY OF NOTES FOR TRAVEL TO PIONEER POINT, VORONTSOV SAID THAT IF SOVIET RESTRICTIONS APPLIED ONLY TO US "THINGS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER," BUT SOVIET RESTRICTIONS APPLIED TO "ALL EMBASSIES"; CHANGE WOULD INVOLVE OVERALL CHANGE IN POLICY. ARMITAGE AGREED, SAYING IT COULD MEAN SHIFTING TO RECIPROCITY AS BASIS FOR RESTRICTIONS BUT THIS COULD SURELY BE JUSTIFIED.

3. RECREATION PROPERTY. ARMITAGE SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR OPENING OF SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL, PRESS CARRIED STORY THAT CONGEN WAS ACTIVELY IN MARKET FOR DACHA. SINCE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT, ARMITAGE ASKED ACCOMPANYING DEPT OFFICER TO REMIND CONGEN THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL NECESSARY IN PRINCIPLE AND FOR SPECIFIC PROPERTY. HE WANTED TO REITERATE THAT REMINDER TO VORONTSOV. LATTER REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL UNQUESTIONABLY NECESSARY AND HE WOULD SPEAK WITH CONGEN.

4. NEW CONSULATES. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD GIVEN FURTHER THOUGHT TO TENTATIVE PROPOSAL FOR NEW CONSULATES IN NEW YORK AND KIEV. VORONTSOV SAID SOVIETS WERE THINKING OF POSSIBLY ADDING CONSULTATES IN TWOS OR THREES INSTEAD OF ONES, IF US WAS INTERESTED, AND OF

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DEVELOPING "PLAN" FOR FUTURE OPENINGS. ARMITAGE SAID THAT IN PRINCIPLE WE WOULD BE INTERESTED, BUT THERE WOULD BE BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WOULD AFFECT OUR POSITION. VORONTSOV SUGGESTED, AND ARMITAGE AGREED, THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REVIEW PRIORITIES OF POSSIBLE CITIES WHERE FUTURE CONSULATES MIGHT BE LOCATED.

5. MOSCOW GAMES. VORONTSOV PROMISED TO LOOK PROMPTLY

INTO PROBLEM EMBASSY MOSCOW OFFICERS WERE HAVING IN GAINING ACCESS TO AMERICAN ATHLETES AT CURRENT GAMES IN MOSCOW.

6. COMMERCIAL OFFICES. ARMITAGE SAID WE PLANNED TO HAVE SOME SORT OF CEREMONIAL OPENING OF US COMMERCIAL OFFICE AT CHAIKOVSKOGO 15 DURING SECRETARY SHULTZ VISIT, EVEN

THOUGH PREMISES WOULD NOT BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY. VORONTSOV SAW NO PROBLEM, AND OPINED THAT SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON MIGHT OPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY. VORONTSOV SAID THAT SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICE WOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO TRADE REPRESENTATION AND OTHERWISE CEASE TO EXIST. SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD HAVE ONLY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND OFFICERS. VORONTSOV ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALKHIMOV DUE IN US SEPTEMBER 2.

7. LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE. VORONTSOV REFERRED TO INTER-MITTENT SUGGESTIONS THAT EXCHANGES BEGIN BETWEEN MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS AND SUPREME SOVIET. ARMITAGE SAID THAT SENATOR SPARKMAN HAD TAKEN INTEREST AND HAD MADE INQUIRIES ABOUT FUNDING. DEPARTMENT HAD RESPONDED THAT IT COULD HELP TO SOME EXTENT, IF CONGRESS FAVORED EXCHANGE AND MATTER NOW RESTED ON CAPITOL HILL. ROGERS

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